

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 19178 111532Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 HA-05 SS-15 NSCE-00 L-03
PA-01 CA-01 VO-05 FBIE-00 INSE-00 SES-02 /060 W
-----047385 111541Z /64

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5444

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 19178

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, SREF, UR, US (OVSEPYAN, ELIZA)

SUBJECT: EMBASSY REPRESENTATION TO MFA RE WALK-IN:
ELIZA OVSEPYAN

REFS: (A) MOSCOW 19006, (B) MOSCOW 18971

1. CONSULAR COUNSELOR CALLED ON MFA CONSULAR
ADMINISTRATION DEPUTY CHIEF, I. M. GOROKHOV,
AUGUST 11 AND MADE REPRESENTATION ON BEHALF OF
MRS. ELIZA OVSEPYAN AND FAMILY. COUNSELOR POINTED
OUT THAT OVSEPYANS ARE SEEKING TO JOIN HER SISTER,
MRS. AZALOUIE HOVSEPIAN (PARA 3, REFTEL B) AND
WIDOWED MOTHER, BUT THAT YEREVAN HAS TWICE REFUSED
EXIT PERMISSION. HE REQUESTED GOROKHOV TO INTERCEDE
WITH YEREVAN OVIR AND IN VIEW OF HUMANITARIAN
ASPECTS, TO SEEK EARLY AND POSITIVE ACTION ON
EXIT VISA APPLICATION. COUNSELOR THEN HANDED
GOROKHOV NON-PAPER CONTAINING POINTS MADE DURING
ORAL PRESENTATION. (COPY POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT)

2. AFTER HANDING NON-PAPER, COUNSELOR POINTED
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 19178 111532Z

OUT THAT MRS. OVSEPYAN CAME TO CONSULAR SECTION
REGARDING EMIGRATION PROCEDURES EVENING AUGUST 10
IN OBVIOUSLY DISTRAUGHT CONDITION WITH HER TWO
CHILDREN AND REMAINED OVERNIGHT. HE NOTED THAT
SHE APPEARS TO BE SIMPLE WOMAN AND THAT HER
ACTIONS ARE CLEARLY NOT POLITICALLY MOTIVATED.
COUNSELDR STATED THAT EMBASSY IS TRYING TO

PERSUADE HER TO LEAVE, BUT THAT IT WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE HELPFUL IN THIS REGARD IF WE COULD CONVEY POSITIVE MESSAGE FROM MINISTRY, PREFERABLY TODAY.

3. GOROKHOV REPLIED THAT HE WOULD ASK YEREVAN OVIR TO REVIEW CASE BUT THAT THIS PROCESS NORMALLY TAKES SEVERAL WEEKS. GOROKHOV ASKED COUNSELOR THEREFORE TO CONVINCE HER TO LEAVE EMBASSY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IN RESPONSE TO COUNSELOR'S REQUEST FOR ASSURANCES THAT THERE WOULD BE NO REPRISALS AGAINST THIS SIMPLE WOMAN, GOROKHOV SMILED AND SAID THAT "OF COURSE THERE WOULD BE NO REPRISALS".

4. MRS. OVSEPYAN'S HUSBAND CALLED EMBASSY FROM SOMEWHERE IN MOSCOW MORNING AUGUST 11 PRIOR TO CALL ON MFA DESCRIBED ABOVE. IN RESPONSE TO CONSOFF'S REQUEST, HE ATTEMPTED TO PERSUADE HIS WIFE TO LEAVE BUT SHE HUNG UP ON HIM, TELLING CONSOFF SHE WOULD REMAIN IN EMBASSY "SIX MORE DAYS".

5. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO TRY TO PERSUADE MRS. OVSEPYAN TO LEAVE WITHOUT RESORT TO FORCE AND REPORT DEVELOPMENTS. TOON
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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 19178 111532Z

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW19178
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780328-1218
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780874/aaaacjrt.tel
Line Count: 94
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 91d2f264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MOSCOW 19006, 78 MOSCOW 18971
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1768782
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EMBASSY REPRESENTATION TO MFA RE WALK-IN: ELIZA OVSEPYAN
TAGS: CVIS, SREF, UR, US, (OVSEPYAN, ELIZA)
To: STATE LENINGRAD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/91d2f264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014